

No. R-458. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vinny Pigeon and Kasia Bilodeau as 2015 Special Olympics Vermont honorees.

(H.C.R.308)

Offered by: Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Parent of St. Albans Town, Beyor of Highgate, Pearce of Richford, Branagan of Georgia, Connor of Fairfield, Fiske of Enosburgh, Gamache of Swanton, Murphy of Fairfax, and Savage of Swanton

Offered by: Senator Degree

Whereas, Special Olympics is an international organization promoting athletic opportunity in a number of Olympic-type sports “for children and adults with intellectual disabilities,” and

Whereas, the organization enables the participating athletes “to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships,” and

Whereas, Special Olympics Vermont has promoted confidence and teamwork since 1971 for a group of athletes who derive great encouragement from participating in competitive events, and

Whereas, the activities roster of Special Olympics Vermont has evolved to consist of approximately a dozen sports in a four-season program, and

Whereas, the 900 Vermont participating athletes can choose from aquatics, track and field, bocce, and softball in the summer; bowling and soccer during the fall; Alpine skiing in many variants, cross country skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing as winter sports; in the spring the athletes can play basketball; and there is an annual golf tournament, and

Whereas, each year, Special Olympics Vermont honors individuals whose personal accomplishments or contributions to the organization’s mission merit statewide praise and recognition, and

Whereas, Vinny Pigeon of St. Albans is a 17-year-old student at Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans (BFA-St. Albans); he is a five-sport athlete who serves on the Special Olympics Vermont Youth Activation Committee and “promotes Unified Sports and inclusion”; and, in 2015, he was named Special Olympics Vermont’s Unified Athlete of the Year, and

Whereas, Kasia Bilodeau of Highgate Center is a coach at BFA-St. Albans; she has demonstrated a strong commitment to Special Olympics Vermont’s athletes and “goes above and beyond at every practice, competition, and conference to ensure all who wish to be involved are included”; and, in 2015, she was honored as Special Olympics Vermont’s Coach of the Year, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vinny Pigeon and Kasia Bilodeau as 2015 Special Olympics Vermont honorees, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vinny Pigeon and Kasia Bilodeau.